

Doston March 15<sup>th</sup> 1850

Fitch Winchester Esq.  
Southboro. Dear Sir. In a former  
communication I proposed to present to  
the Inhabitants of my native Town Five  
Hundred dollars, on certain conditions,  
which I would name hereafter.

I now renew the proposal, and state the con-  
ditions.

1<sup>st</sup>. That the Inhabitants by subscription or  
otherwise, shall raise or appropriate, an  
equal sum; the whole to constitute a fund  
for the purpose of establishing a Library in  
said Town.

2<sup>d</sup> That all the youth of said Town under twenty  
one years of age, <sup>of both sexes.</sup> shall be entitled to the use  
of said Library free of charge, under such  
regulations as the Trustees may think proper.  
I may add, that all the Inhabitants, of all ages,  
may enjoy the same privilege, if desirable, with-  
out any objection from me; my first object  
being, to provide for the young who have an  
inclination to acquire useful knowledge,  
the means of gratifying such inclination.

3<sup>d</sup>. To guard against dissatisfaction from any  
quarter, and to enable all the youth to participate  
in the benefits to be derived from said Library,  
I would stipulate, that all Books or works  
of a sectarian or party character shall be  
excluded; and the Library consist of works



treating upon subjects coming under the general denomination of "Useful Knowledge".

I trust it will not be understood, that I am in different to, or unmindful of, the importance of religious culture; or of a certain degree of political knowledge; but my object is to furnish our youth with the means to qualify themselves, to become intelligent, useful, and moral citizens, and leave each one free to follow his own inclinations, (under the guidance of his parents,) in all matters touching religion and politics.

4<sup>th</sup> That Trustees shall be chosen in such manner as the Inhabitants shall determine, composed as near as may be of an equal number from each of the religious denominations, of which the Inhabitants are composed, and all vacancies to be filled in same manner; and such board of Trustees, shall purchase said Library, and adopt such regulations & bye laws, as they may think necessary to carry out the objects contemplated.

5<sup>th</sup> That a reasonable proportion of said fund (probably about one half) shall be expended by said Trustees as soon as convenient for Books for said Library.

6<sup>th</sup> That the balance of said fund, (not now expended) shall be put at interest under the direction of said Trustees; and <sup>as a fund</sup> not less than the interest, (at the discretion of said Trustees) shall be annually expended in making additions to said Library. I might offer many more thoughts in reference



to details in carrying out the objects contemplated  
but the above are all the conditions I wish  
or think expedient to attach to the donation  
and will leave details to the wisdom of  
those whose children are to receive the benefits.  
Should my proposition be accepted the  
sum proposed will be subject to your order  
or the order of the Trustees at sight.

As I before remarked I have made you  
the channel thro which to make this  
proposition to my fellow citizens and  
former associates, and respectfully request  
you to carry out my wishes in such manner  
as you may think expedient.

I am very Respectfully  
Your friend & servant

Francis B. Hay

accepted



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Sketch Manchester Eng  
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St. John's Bay  
March 15 1854

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